

No Secret Diplomacy

BEFORE it recessed the Senate declined to urge open sessions of the disarmament conference by means of a rider to an appropriation bill.

That method of expressing a great public opinion was properly judged undignified.

But notice was served that, ere the conference assembles November 11, the subject would be revived in fitting fashion, with opportunity for every Senator to go on record.

The American people do not ask to be admitted to every conversation among the delegates. They recognize the necessity for privacy in arranging details of delicate and intricate negotiations.

The phrase, "open covenants, openly arrived at," does not imply a ban on all privacy of negotiation.

To progressive Americans it means simply that conferences on world issues involving the welfare of great numbers of human beings shall not degenerate into sinister secret intrigues for special advantage, but shall submit their recommendations and reasons to public review before final action is taken. Progressive Americans have learned a lesson from Versailles.

The disarmament conference will be attended by a certain number of men representing each of the participating nations. These delegates will nominally act for their respective governments under instructions from the men at the head of those governments.

Actually they will act for millions of people—the real if not the accredited principals.

THE PRINCIPALS SHOULD KNOW WHAT THE AGENTS ARE DOING. That is a cardinal doctrine of democracy, neglect of which always endangers the public welfare.

Secret diplomacy has brought white civilization to the verge of ruin. Open conference, discussion and understanding are the only roads to recovery.

Senator Walsh of Massachusetts spoke the exact truth when he told his fellow Senators:

Reasons for open procedure reach out almost infinitely. The knowledge by the world public of what transpires in the conference will keep the attitudes and actions of all the delegates fresh and idealized, even if their motives are practical. Movements to promote peace and justice thrive and expand in the light of publicity. The success of Machiavellian diplomacy depends mostly on secrecy on the part of the negotiators and ignorance on the part of the peoples they represent. Intrigue and conspiracy can stand the strong searchlight of public scrutiny much less in these days of democratic supremacy than in former days when peoples were merely pawns for monarchs and scheming imperialists. Making public the progress and development of the conference will make for franker and more wholesome disposition of arising questions. And it will also inject a positive moral force into the negotiations.

If any nation has good reasons why it should maintain costly armaments far in excess of obvious needs it should confidently give those reasons to the world.

No nation seeking exceptional power from motives which cannot withstand public scrutiny should be permitted to conceal its aims beneath a mask of hypocritical pretenses to virtue.

The old diplomacy has been tried for thousands of years and has invariably proved harmful to honest men and women.

Surely the time has come to try new processes.

We have not been able to develop the enthusiasm of expectation which some feel for this coming conference.

But if any good at all is to be won from it, the first requisite is that public opinion shall not be barred from its door.

Fordney for a Sales Tax

THE chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, Mr. Fordney, tells Michigan audiences that the adjusted compensation bill will surely be passed next December.

He adds that he is in favor of a 1 per cent tax on wholesale sales to pay the bonus.

We agree with him that this measure of simple justice to the men who carried our arms to victory in the great war will be passed, if not next December, then at some other date not distant; if not by this Congress, then by one which has heard from the plain folk back home.

And we are glad to learn that the chairman of the committee which originates revenue legislation has had the foresight to declare in part, even at this late day, for the sales tax.

To be sure, the bill which this committee recently framed and which the branch of the Congress under his leadership has just passed is silent on the subject—a silence believed by many to be due to uncalculated political timidity.

Also, among the Senators sitting in review upon the House measure the same silence is encountered. Even Senators who in private admit that the sales tax is the best available means of obtaining revenue are reluctant to express it openly.

Perhaps they would gain new courage of conviction if they, like Mr. Fordney, could go home and get in touch with the people. When they do regain this touch they will discover two things:

(1) That the people are not at all convinced of the need of loaning more hundreds of millions to the railroads and of letting our foreign debtors fund their debts into long term bond issues with deferred interest payments while thousands of discharged soldiers are stranded, without incomes and without work; and

(2) That they are not half so much opposed to the sales tax as the politicians think they are.

They are quite willing to pay a moderate tax on sales if assured that the money will be spent for a worthy purpose and not wasted.

A Romance in Our Midst

WHO says that the days of romance and adventure are over? In the words of Hamlet, "List, list! Oh, list!"

Mr. Mayo and his second wife are at loggerheads. Mrs. Mayo takes her baby and disappears from New York. Mr. Mayo sends his young son—by a former marriage—in pursuit. The son traces them to a little town in Mississippi, grabs the baby and hurries to Chicago, the mother and her friends after him.

In Chicago he meets a girl, turns the baby over to her and rushes off to lead his pursuers astray. The girl takes care of the baby and carries it safely to New York while the babyless son is being eagerly pursued.

Then, when all the dust has settled, the son and the Chicago girl get married. After the ceremony they go to an aviation field where an airplane is waiting to take them on the first lap of their honeymoon. All that is lacking is that his stepmother and her friends should follow him in a submarine.

The father is opposed to the marriage, first, because he thinks his son is too young; and, second, on general principles. The son brings the bride to his father, who finds her charming and withdraws objection number one. Objection number two is: "After my experience I am opposed to matrimony on general principles. I'm off it for life."

This objection is not easily withdrawn. We would like to comment on it, but, save and deliver us, it would take up a page. But isn't it a good story?

DON'T GET THE CART BEFORE THE HORSE

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THEY'RE HUMAN

BY William Atherton Du Puy

When President Harding wanted to establish the identity and family connections of the two owls that have taken up their residence in the White House grounds and are warring on the rodents thereabouts he called in Edward B. Clark, a veteran newspaperman whose hobby is birds. Mr. Clark has studied all the authorities, among them being Aristotle, teacher of Alexander the Great, who wrote a book on them that is still in print. Mr. Clark looked over the hoot specialists of these exclusive circles and pronounced them the ordinary variety of screech owls. This journalistic bird authority has served in a similar capacity with other Presidents. He it was who wrote the famous "nature faker" interview with President Roosevelt, but appeared in the introduction written by Clark. It was he and not Roosevelt who coined it.

A business man came down to Washington for a conference with the Department of Commerce and was turned over to Claudius Huston, Mr. Hoover's assistant, the man who carried Tennessee for the Republicans last year. After their business was dispatched the two chatted informally. "Where are you from?" said the New Yorker. "Chattanooga," was the reply. "Hum," said the visitor, pursing his lips. "When is your successor to be appointed?" He had taken it for granted that this man from the South was a holdover from a former Administration.

Mrs. Homer Hoch, wife of Congressman Hoch of Marion, Kan., had a career similar to that of Mrs. Harding, working with her husband in the making of a newspaper out in the Sunflower State. She writes a letter to that paper every week from Washington, a letter that is not social, but political gossip.

Miss Malbelle Helken-Justice, the scenario writer, is a great friend of Sir Thomas Linton, and spends much time on his yacht when he comes over to contest for a cup. She says that his instinct of sportsmanship and fair play is carried to his smallest action and causes him, for instance, to see any curious individual who may present himself. He is thus much imposed upon but he does not turn away the man who might deserve a hearing. (Copyright, 1921.)

Stars and Stripes

RECKLESS RHYMES NO. 2. There was a young woman who lived in a shoe—Black patent leather, size Number 2. She looked most unhappy, she couldn't walk straight. And neither would you with a foot Number 8.

REASONABLE. "Have you anything to say, prisoner before sentence is passed upon you?" asked the judge. "No, Your Honor," answered the culprit, "except that it takes very little to please me."

Solomon stood at the door of the royal bath on Saturday night and waited. At 5 o'clock next morning he was still waiting. He was heard to mutter: "I would like to lay my hands on the fellow who invented the slogan, 'Women and Children First!'"

THE CAT. Ethel—Would you marry a man to reform him? Clara—Has Jack proposed to you, too?

"Shoes Going Down! Skirts Going Up!"—Headline. Or, as Kipling would have written: "For shoes are shoes and skirts are skirts—and never the twain shall meet."

Mr. B. Baer

EFFICIENCY SPASMS.

REASON why so many folks are loose from work is efficiency experts.

EFFICIENCY pirate is a man who grabs salary for fault finding. Waltzes into prosperous organization, oils machinery with sand, fires everybody, pours oil on burning waters, rubs cat wrong way, steals minute hand off office clock, makes office look like sister ship to wreck of Hesperus.

EFFICIENCY expert is a maiden aunt of business world. Never had any business baby of his own, but knows more about other folks' industrial infants than their own mothers. Eliminates expenses by amputating profits.

FIRST thing expert does when he sneaks into office is to stir up files and make place look busy. Then he washes out organization with soap and figures and fumigates business with essence of panic. Death rattle in throat of progress is his idea of throbs of industry.

FIGURES that one adding machine will do work of fifty clerks. Fires clerks. Turns business over to boss, who finds that there is nothing left to add.

EXPERT grabs his atrocious bonus for devastating jubilee. Swipes door-knob and moves on to his next auto. Opens up chain system of wrecked stores.

BUT even mosquito does some good in world, provided he bites people who don't like. Many hard working folks would never get vacations if it weren't for effish hounds. Next time you pipe boys enjoying blizzard on park benches you will know that efficiency scout helped them to get there.

CALLING in effish gorilla is new form of voluntary bankruptcy. Bad business is good compared with no business at all. He who lives by knife shall perish by fork. When he finally works himself out of work, effish expert will have to call in another effish brother to look him over.

THEN air will be full of feathers, teeth and stiletos. Pack of effish vultures will eat up sick wolf.

Ye TOWNE GOSSIP

Registered U. S. Patent Office.

By K. C. B.

"From the navy point of view it will stimulate us to greater efforts. Human progress has always been made at a cost of life. Our aim should be to see to it that these lives have not been lost in vain."—Commander R. D. Weyerbacher, U. S. N., on the loss of the ZR-2.

IT SOUNDS all right. **ABOUT HIS** money.

AND MAYBE it is. **AND MAYBE** this commander.

AND MAYBE I'm foolish. **IS A** very fine man.

BUT SOMEHOW or other. **AND KNOWS** all about it.

EVERY LITTLE while. **BUT ONCE** in a while.

AND MOSTLY it comes. **WHEN SOME** thing happens.

WHEN I'M writing my check. **I WISH** the papers.

FOR MY income tax. **WOULD SEND** their reporters.

I FEEL myself. **TO SOME** taxpayer.

GETTING ALL stirred up. **AND LET** him say.

BECAUSE OF the ways. **WHAT HE** thinks about it.

THE GOVERNMENT finds. **AND ASKING** an officer.

TO SPEND my money. **OF THE U. S.** Navy.

AND MAYBE I'm mean. **OR ANY** old navy.

AND MAYBE I'm close. **WHAT HE** may think.

AND NOT progressive. **OF BUILDING** new ships.

AND JUST plain selfish. **FOR AIR** or water.

BUT DOG gone me. **IS JUST** the same.

I SURE do wish. **AS ASKING** a bartender.

THERE WAS some way. **WHAT HE** may think.

THAT A poor taxpayer. **ABOUT PROHIBITION.**

COULD PUT in a word. **OR ASKING** your wife.

NEARLY GREAT. **IF SHE'D** like a new hat.

The Minor Leagues are not so slow. And players there may draw good dough When one's not made a star by Fate It helps some to be nearly great.

The nearly great have had more fun Than many a genius ever won. And they are safer from the sting Of such as never did a thing.

So let us finish with a bow This nearly great effusion now. And let us dine, for it is true The nearly great get hungry, too.

Better Salaries the Need of District Employees

By BILL PRICE.

Classification recommendations are about to be submitted to the District Commissioners by the Bureau of Efficiency of the Federal Government, whose experts have been making a "survey" of the personnel of the District Government.

Hints are that the recommendations will classify District employees somewhat along the lines proposed in the Wood-Smoot bill, a product of the Bureau, and that increased salaries will be included.

It may be all right for the Commissioners to seek the learned advice and help of Federal efficiency experts. It may be all right to do some classification, but the real big thing is **LARGELY INCREASED SALARIES** for the **WORST PAID MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES** in the United States.

There are frequently many frills accompanying "efficiency," and often theory enters largely where practical common sense should be the sole guide.

Years ago Congress, in one of its saving-the-treasury moods, reduced the salaries paid to District employees **BELOW THE LEVEL** paid by the Federal Government, which is anything but liberal in its salary allowances to its own workers. Repeated promises have been made to do the fair thing by these municipal employees, but one excuse or another has stood in the way up to this time.

The Times takes this occasion to recommend to the Commissioners that in preparing their estimates to Congress for the next fiscal year they make a **HEALTHY INCREASE OF SALARIES** for District employees the foremost item therein, and when the estimates are before Congress for consideration to insist as strongly as possible that these increases be made realities.

The people of Washington desire fair and square treatment for municipal workers. These faithful employees have had anything but a square deal for years and there is no better time than now for the Commissioners, acting for Washington, to put the subject before Congress. Under the existing taxation plan the taxpayers of the District furnish the bulk of the money to meet District expenditures, and there isn't a taxpayer in this community who will object to part of his money going toward doing the right thing.

In the Water Department of the District Government there are forty-three employees on the payroll and the annual disbursement for salaries is \$42,000, less than an average of \$1,000 per year, the higher salaries being included. There are sixteen water inspectors whose statutory compensation is \$900 per year each.

This is just a sample of the salary situation in the local government, and the unfairness of it is so glaring as to attract the attention of every civic organization and right-thinking citizen of this city.

Classification need not interfere with the deserved increases. They should go together. But better salaries overshadows classification so largely as to make that the question the Commissioners shall stress.

Any classification which fails to place the most humble employe on the basis of a **LIVING WAGE** should fail of even the slightest consideration by the Commissioners.

There are classification theories which emphasize the importance of the higher-salaried employes over the underpaid workers. There are no **OVERPAID** employes of the District, but there are thousands of **UNDERPAID** ones. The official who gets from \$2,500 a year up is at least assured of a comfortable living for himself and a small family. The worker who gets but \$900 per year is just managing to live, and that's all. So it remains to be seen where classification places the largest increase in salaries. The lower grades of salaries should be boosted far beyond present schedules.

Municipal workers may be classified in the most artistic manner possible, but if they are not paid living wages, it's all a joke. The truth is that there are no more efficient or capable municipal workers in the world than in Washington, despite the injustices under which they work.

YOUR Interest in Penrose Bill

THE minority of the Committee on Finance has filed its report against the Penrose bill which would confer upon the Secretary of the Treasury unprecedented and probably unconstitutional powers to deal with the ten thousand million dollars which the nations of Europe owe the United States.

All the powers of a new Administration with its great patronage, all the powers of the bankers and of the business interests which they control, and all the power which the British government and the British interests exercise under cover in this country will be exerted to force this bill through Congress.

Unless the greatest efforts are made both in Congress and in the country at large, the bill will pass into law. If the bill passes it will be a very serious thing for the country.

If this bill passes, no matter what the good intentions of the Secretary of the Treasury may be, we may find that this huge sum owed to us has been totally lost by the superior adroitness, experience and cunning of British statesmen.

We don't want to lose our ten thousand million dollars between Washington and London and Paris as we lost the fourteen points.